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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TO THE
ELECTORS OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. I,
LARAMIE CO., WYO.

CHEYENNE

1904

THE S. A. BRISTOL COMPANY, PRINTERS AND BOOKBINDERS,
CHEYENNE, WYO.

Annual Report

The schools during the year have been highly satisfactory. No event, save the smallpox epidemic, seriously affected the attendance and good standing of the schools. The prompt action by the proper authorities, supplemented by the action of the School Board in establishing compulsory vaccination of all pupils, removed the necessity of closing the school beyond a comparatively short period.

The Board, with great unanimity, has worked to improve the schools, and it is happy in saying that there could scarcely be a better spirit among the pupils than that which is to-day shown in all grades, including the High School classes.

The life of a teacher is not an easy one. The trials of a conscientious teacher are not few. At best it may be said to be a wearing life, but the Board is justified in saying that the corps of teachers now employed has done the important work in its charge in a most satisfactory manner and in such a way as must be highly appreciated by the parents and the pupils.

Except in rare cases, the Board has had the support and the cordial co-operation of parents. The health of teachers and pupils has been exceedingly good. The average attendance as compared with the total enrollment has been better than for several previous years. The Board regrets, however, that there are a few children of the school age who do not attend any school. Some who do not have any employment are dissipating valuable time of the school period of their lives on the streets or in worse places. While there is a compulsory attendance law on the statute books, it is hard to enforce it; but after all, the best law, so far as school children are concerned, is that of the home at all times exercised. The Board appeals to parents to exercise their right of control in this respect.

The School District has been embarrassed for the want of funds to do all that should be done for the betterment of the schools and the school property. It is with the strictest economy that the Board is enabled to avoid a large deficiency. The bonded debt, contracted a number of years ago to erect the required school buildings and to equip the same, is large. The annual levy of taxes for school purposes is necessarily high, and the Board, after meeting the teachers' salaries,

contingent and incidental expenses, has but little left for school building improvements.

To relieve other school buildings, the Board, after procuring plans and specifications, made certain changes in the High School building during the vacation of 1903. These improvements consisted in finishing, in part, the third story of that building, erecting broad staircases to the same and putting in a steam heating plant to heat about two-fifths of the building; so constructed, however, that the system could be extended at any time to cover the entire building. These improvements have proven of great advantage, as they enabled us to relieve the other crowded buildings to the extent of removing all teachers of the seventh and eighth grades, with their classes, to the High School building.

These improvements have been expensive, but as a result there have been well accommodated in this building 296 pupils in comparison with 153 during the preceding year. Further improvements may be made in this building so as to accommodate a still greater number of pupils as the necessity arises. The Board thinks that these changes have been of very great advantage to the seventh and eighth grades by concentrating them under one roof with the pupils of the High School and in enabling us to establish the departmental plan of teaching those grades. The good effect is daily felt and we believe that the influence will soon be seen in the High School enrollment and in the increased number of graduates.

Considerable attention has been given to athletics, military drill, the school magazine and literary societies. These have given spirit and enthusiasm to all High School work and have increased the attachment between the pupils and their school.

Methods of teaching have been improved wherever needed. Music and drawing have been placed under a supervisor. By shifting the dividing lines between school buildings and by a new assignment of grades much overcrowding of rooms has been avoided.

The Board, after investigating the matter, felt it to be their duty to increase the amount of insurance carried on the school buildings to \$69,500. This has also added somewhat to our expenses. An additional teacher, sewer tax and other extraordinary expenses cost about one thousand dollars.

An increasing number of free text books will become unfit for use each year and must, under the law, be replaced by others. The increase for this year amounted to over \$230.

Under the law passed by the Legislature, a careful enumeration of all the pupils of school age was made in the Spring of 1903. The same enumeration has been provided for this year, to be made this month.

The schools of Cheyenne afford an opportunity for every boy and girl to obtain a good education. The child is received at the commencement of the school age. The entire course covers a period of twelve years, and the law contemplates that when a pupil finishes

the entire course he will be a graduate from our High School, which is a distinguished honor. The High School certificate secures admission without further examination to many of the great colleges and universities of the United States and to many of the law and medical schools.

Our own State University is near at hand, and its splendid curriculum is so arranged that the High School graduate there takes up the studies where they have been left off, and under the immediate direction of a superior faculty can do highly satisfactory work. This is evidenced by the success that is being attained by many of its graduates.

While the period of instruction in our city schools extends over twelve years of child life the hours required in attendance at the schools are scarcely more than one-fifth of the entire number of working hours in that period. It therefore requires but little sacrifice upon the part of parents to have their children take the complete course. This would be, for all time, an incalculable advantage to them.

JOSEPH M. CAREY, Director,
M. E. LARSH, Clerk,
WILLIAM MYERS,
H. B. PATTEN,
WILLIAM STOREY,
WM. R. SCHNITGER,
Trustees.

Clerk's Report

The expenditures for the fiscal year ending April 20, 1904, have been as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Teachers' Salaries..... | \$23,599.83 | |
| Janitors' Salaries | 2,277.50 | |
| Fuel, Central School..... | \$409.65 | |
| Fuel, High School | 514.76 | |
| Fuel, Converse School..... | 216.52 | |
| Fuel, Corlett School..... | 135.72 | |
| Fuel, Johnson School | 141.94 | |
| Fuel, Merna School..... | 13.10 | 1,431.69 |
| Water Rents..... | 220.50 | |
| Insurance (Contingent Fund)..... | 825.00 | |
| Labor and Lumber..... | 16.68 | |
| Clocks | 16.50 | |
| Hardware and Furniture..... | 643.88 | |
| Electric Lights | 12.70 | |
| Printing..... | 284.85 | |
| Freight..... | 151.32 | |
| Lawn | 41.10 | |
| Interest on Warrants..... | 546.67 | |
| Rent, Durham School..... | 2.00 | |
| Supplies..... | 571.53 | |
| Free Text Books | 1,058.64 | |
| Laboratory..... | 99.36 | |
| Commencement | 26.75 | |
| Typewriter..... | 75.00 | |
| Enumeration (Contingent Fund) | 75.34 | |
| Fire Extinguishers | 30.00 | |
| Pictures | 120.50 | |
| Telephones..... | 135.00 | |
| Postage and Telegrams | 27.45 | |
| Sewer Tax, Converse School..... | 186.24 | |
| Contingent Expenses | 645.49 | |
| High School Improvements..... | 3,578.20 | |
| High School Heating Plant | 1,050.00 | |
| Repairs, High School | 398.35 | |
| Repairs, Central School | 252.00 | |
| Repairs, Corlett School..... | 189.84 | |
| Repairs, Johnson School..... | 419.64 | |
| Repairs, Merna School | 30.56 | |
| Repairs, Converse School | 74.55 | 1,364.94 |
| Total | | \$39,114.66 |

The district owns real estate valued at cost as follows:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Central Building and Grounds..... | \$47,150.00 |
| Johnson Building and Grounds | 12,000.00 |
| Corlett Building and Grounds | 12,000.00 |
| High School Building and Grounds..... | 46,368.87 |
| Converse Building and Grounds..... | 18,186.24 |
| Merna School Building..... | 112.36 |
| Farrell School Building | 700.00 |
| Block 596 | 3,000.00 |
| Total Value | \$139,517.47 |

M. E. LARSH, Clerk.

Treasurer's Report

RECEIPTS.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| General Tax | \$ 6,037.32 |
| Special Tax | 26,400.27 |
| Received from State for Rent of Lands..... | 5,600.78 |
| Received from Sale of Books, and Fines..... | 278.00 |
| Insurance—Fire Johnson Building | 38.25 |
| Balance, April 20th, 1903 | 2,114.95 |
| Total | \$40,469.57 |

DISBURSEMENTS.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Teachers' Fund | \$23,949.58 |
| School House Fund..... | 14,317.33 |
| Contingent Fund..... | 1,267.50 |
| Balance on Hand, April 20th, 1904 | 935.16 |
| Total | \$40,469.57 |

Respectfully submitted.

WM. R. SCHNITGER, Treasurer.

Teachers' Warrants outstanding April 20, '04, amount to \$435.00, leaving a net balance of \$500.16 on hand at this date.



The Board submits the following estimate of expenses for the ensuing year, viz:

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Teachers' Salaries..... | \$25,300.00 |
| Janitors' Salaries | 2,400.00 |
| Repairs and Improvements on School Buildings..... | 4,000.00 |
| Fuel | 1,200.00 |
| Water Rent | 550.00 |
| Contingent Expense..... | 1,700.00 |
| School Supplies | 1,400.00 |
| Insurance..... | 350.00 |
| Free Text Books..... | 1,400.00 |
| District Library | 100.00 |
| Total..... | <u>\$38,400.00</u> |